

A Few Words From Down Under

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wrong. It seems the lack of “classical” tradition has penalized the descendants of this penal colony as waves of migrants, in an effort to fit into a new culture, divested themselves of their past heritage, condemning our cultural future to hard labour. I would venture to say the same for the US as various waves of immigrants sought new lives there.

As a result, there is no definitive reference for our current art students, no benchmark to refer to as they try to advance artistically. The problem of lacking a “past perfect” as a measuring device is exacerbated by a generation of art teachers who were nurtured in the “conceptual” art movement. They may be able to think and talk and write about art very well but they can’t paint a picture or draw a conclusion on what constitutes a work of good art.

When it comes to figure drawing, art students today are not taught there is a skeletal framework that supports a network of muscles which will constrict or stretch accordingly in different poses. Students rarely draw from life models or cadavers, more’s the pity! When set a still life subject, emphasis is put on expressing how one feels about, or relates to, the object rather than how to re-present it in paint, pencil, clay or stone. They can not translate what they see into a work of art because basic colour theory and design principles have been superseded by technology. I’ve had more than one student justify poor drawing skills as “expressive”

or a splotch of vomit green as reference to his distaste for the subject, a plate of avocados.

If we transfer this modern approach to visual arts to contemporary writing, then I should be allowed to type this commentary with my fingers on the wrong keys, because sometimes that’s just how I feel about contemporary art. If I were permitted to do so, you wouldn’t understand what I have to say, just like I can’t comprehend what these modern art graduates are trying to tell the world. Sometimes I think they’re saying; *O s, sm styody O jsbr s [orvr pg [s[rt yjys dsud dp.* (See *below.)

Take me back to Ancient Rome. They had running water and some really good contemporary art in those days.

*(I am an artist, I have a piece of paper that says so.)

Judith McGrath lives in Kalamunda, Western Australia, 25 minutes east of Perth. She received a BA in Fine Art and History from the University of Western Australia. McGrath lectured in Art History and Visual Literacy at various colleges around the Perth area, and was an art reviewer for *The Sunday Times* and *The Western Review* both published in the Perth area. McGrath was also a freelance writer and reviewer for various art magazines in Australia. She also co-ordinated the web site *Art Seen in Western Australia* found at (<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/tep/25381>). McGrath is currently enjoying retirement.

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Tommy Thompson

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, will present *Tommy Thompson: Art 2007-2015*, on view from Jan. 7 through Feb. 27, 2016. A reception will be held on Jan. 7, from 5-8pm.

Thompson has been painting, primarily in watercolors, since 1965. He has taught numerous classes and workshops in the greater Columbia metropolitan area since 1989.

For the past 10 years, in addition to his watercolor landscapes, he has been concentrating on experimental acrylic painting on board and canvas. Both his watercolor and acrylic paintings are included in private, corporate and South Carolina State Government collections. He earned signature status of the South Carolina Watermedia Society and is an active member of several Columbia area art associations. He earned signature status as a Nautilus Fellowship member in the International Society of Experimental Artists 10 years ago.

Thompson comments, “For the last several decades the advances in polymer science have had a dynamic effect on art materials. The advent of current acrylic paint and especially the acrylic mediums



Work by Tommy Thompson

have opened many new avenues for individual expression.

“I have always been fascinated by the intensity of colors and the representation of light and shadow in my work,” says Thompson. “Now, the new acrylic mediums have allowed me to introduce another dimension to the paintings – texture and relief surface work.”

City Art Gallery is located on Lincoln Street in the historic Congaree Vista area in Columbia, SC.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/252-3613 or visit (www.cityartonline.com).

CITYART



ART 2007 - 2015 Tommy Thompson

Opening reception Thursday January 7, 2016 5-8pm
Will remain in the main gallery through February 27, 2016

1224 Lincoln Street - Columbia, SC 29201 - 803.252.3613 - cityartonline.com

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January 15 – February 28, 2016



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